



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

January 2014

MAPLE VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Tips on How to Prevent Residential Burglaries

One statistic states 1 out of 36 homes in the U.S. will be burglarized. That's an average of one home every fifteen seconds! The estimated average loss per break-in is \$1,675.

Popular belief is that residential burglaries occur after dark mostly. This just isn't true. Most instances of residential burglaries actually occur during daylight hours and are considered a "crime of opportunity" i.e., open garage door, unlocked door, unlocked window. Here are some tips that might help prevent you from becoming a victim of a very intrusive and emotional crime.

- A home security system is always a good idea. The sound of an alarm is often just enough to scare off a would-be burglar. While this can be an expensive choice, one affordable alternative is a little trickery; putting a home security sign in your yard without actually signing up for the service.
- Many times burglars enter homes that are left unsecured. An open garage is a common entry point for burglars. They often advertise your belongings to a passerby. Please be sure to close your garage door whenever you are not present. Also, it's never a good idea to leave your garage door opener inside a vehicle that is parked in your driveway.



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Maple Valley Police provides a drive by service for residents who are away from home for an extended period of time.

[Vacation Watch](#)

- Get to know your neighbors. Your neighbors can play a very important role in preventing a residential burglary. When you know more about each other you're more likely to know when something is amiss or out of the ordinary. Don't be afraid to call 911 when something doesn't look or feel right...trust your intuition.
- Take a good look at the landscaping in your front and back yard. Are there bushes near the front windows or doors that make a good hiding spot or escape route? More open spaces are less appealing to burglars
- In the likelihood of a nighttime break-in, light is a great deterrent. Consider installing motion sensors on outdoor lighting. If you have a detached garage or storage shed make sure the lights are in good working order. Brighter the better.
- Leaving noise turned on, as in a TV or radio, can be a great preventative tool as well. When voices or music can be heard inside your home a would-be burglar may be left with the impression that someone is actually home.
- Burglars routinely look for valuables in specific areas;
 - Master bedroom – cash, jewelry, portable safes. **What valuables do you have hidden in your master bedroom?**
 - Den or Office – electronics, passports, banking documents or checks.Find another room or space to keep your valuables. *My grandmother always put her "purse to bed" in the washing machine.*
- Maple Valley Police Department can stop by when we're not busy and conduct a safety check-up on your home. Give us a call at 425-413-5158 and we'd be happy to give you some free advice on how to improve the safety of your home.





City Wide Crime Statistics: Monthly Comparison

Crime	October 2013	November 2013	December 2013
Residential burglary	3	2	4
Larceny from vehicle	8	9	12
Auto Theft	4	3	4

Residential Burglary Statistics for December 2013

Location	Approx Time	Day of the Week	Details
27200 block Witte Rd SE	Unknown	Unknown	Forced entry to detached shop. Metal hasp pried, lock broken. Various tools taken. Unknown suspect information.
23400 block SE 246 th Pl	7am-5pm	Wed	Non forced entry, unknown method. Unknown suspect took electronics from inside residence.
21400 block SE 274 th Pl	Unknown	Unknown	Non forced entry, unknown method. Unknown suspect took electronics and personal items from inside residence.
26300 block Lake Wilderness CC	Unknown	Unknown	Non forced entry, unknown method. Various items taken from inside garage.

*To locate crime activities in your neighborhood please visit our website;
www.maplevalleywa.gov/police-reports*

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Text **MVPolice** or **98038** to **888777** and receive real-time alerts and advisories directly from your local police department.



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